

Drive on to Save Ruby as a Psycho

By GEORGE MORRIS

CPYRGHT

AN EXTRAORDINARY drive is under way to get an acquittal for Jack Ruby, the Dallas strip-tease merchant who silenced Lee Harvey Oswald, on the basis of reports of high-priced psychiatric examinations.

This was already apparent when an elaborate defense machinery was put together for Ruby, headed by Melvin M. Belli, one of California's highest-priced criminal lawyers. The source of the hundreds of thousands of dollars such a defense will cost is still a mystery. Ruby's relatives have disclosed that the series of articles on the killer's life published in Hearst and other papers, did not bring anywhere near the amount of money expected.

One of Belli's first steps was to engage prominent New York psychiatrists to examine and report on Ruby's brain condition. Their report, to nobody's surprise, supported Belli's contention that Ruby had a condition that could have made him insane at the moment he caught sight of Oswald in the Dallas police station basement and fired a bullet into him.

TEXAS PROBE

A Texas State mental examination brought a report that Ruby was sane. But trial Judge Joseph Brantley Brown named Dr. Martin L. Towler, neurologist at the University of Texas, to examine Ruby. Towler reported that Ruby claimed he suffered from recurrent "spells" at intervals of 30 to 40 seconds. Seldom has the minutest detail of any person's mental condition received so much court and public attention.

Even Ruby's sex habits (and

Oswald's) have been publicly analyzed and journalistically displayed in Time Magazine of February 14.

To bolster the view that Ruby's brain was damaged, much has been dug up on his earlier exploits in Chicago's gangland and the blow on the head he reportedly once suffered. Ruby's sister, Eva Grant, was brought into the picture with a story that she remembered that her mother had complained that Ruby's birth was difficult because he weighed 11 pounds.

Judge Brown on the first day of the trial rejected Belli's attempt to get a dismissal of the charges on psychiatric grounds. But there is no doubt that the defense will play the "brain-damage" card with everything it has when the trial gets under way, using especially the report of Judge Brown's appointed medical expert.

Oswald's mother, Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, expressed the hope that Ruby would not be executed if found guilty, but would be confined for life to an institution, if found insane.

But Marina Oswald, the widow, was reported, through her business manager, James Martin, as not interested in the trial. She had expressed to the Warren Commission her conviction that Oswald had killed the President and had identified various phy-

sical objects that the FBI had gathered as evidence.

Marina Oswald is very greatly occupied with financial matters. Contributions have passed the \$35,000 mark. She has sold the rights for a book of her memoirs to Meredith Press, and the film rights to her story to Tex-Italia Films. Magazine rights are still in negotiations. All that will put her well on the way to wealth.

ACCUSES CIA

In contrast to Marina, Oswald's mother stood by her murdered son and insisted in three days of testimony before the Warren Commission that Oswald was in the service of the CIA and was used as a "scapegoat" in a plot to kill the President. She conceded her son may have been involved, but insisted that the real killers are still running around loose.

Mrs. Oswald gave the committee documentary material, including a batch of letters Oswald wrote her on the eve of departure to the USSR in 1959 and from the Soviet Union, to support her contention that Lee Oswald was in undercover service. To Mrs. Oswald there is apparently nothing derogatory about undercover service.

She has been attempting, it seems, to show that a government agency dragged her son into a mess and that such a serv-

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